



PATENT

Agent's Docket No. 14151-US

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1.31.03**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

HO, Esmond et al

Serial No: 09/275,079

Filed: 24-March-99

Art Unit: 2664

Examiner: HARPER, Kevin C.

**For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRIORITIZED RELEASE OF
CONNECTIONS IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

January 23, 2003

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

Sir:

In response to the office action mailed September 23, 2002, the applicants submit the following amendments and remarks:

In the Drawings

Permission is respectfully requested to amend Figures 1, 2 and 3 of the drawings as shown in the attached copy.

In the claims

Please cancel claims 8 and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 23, 31, and 32 as follows:

Marked up version showing Amendments

1(Amended). A method for the ordered release of connections from a network entity in a signaling communications network, the connections being routed across the